

Berlin

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Berlin: introducing the city



Brandenburg Gate, Berlin.

Berlin is the capital and largest city of Germany by both area and population. Its 3.7 million inhabitants make it the European Union's most populous city, according to population within city limits. Berlin is home to world-renowned universities such as the Humboldt University, Technical University, Free University, University of the Arts, ESMT Berlin, Hertie School, and Bard College Berlin. Its Zoological Garden is the most visited zoo in Europe and one of the most popular worldwide. With Babelsberg being the world's first large-scale movie studio complex, Berlin is an increasingly popular location for international film productions. The city is well known for its festivals, diverse architecture, nightlife, contemporary arts, and a very high quality of life.

Berlin is also home to three World Heritage Sites: Museum Island; the Palaces and Parks of Potsdam and Berlin; and the Modernism Housing Estates.

Germany: quick facts about the country

Germany is situated between the Baltic and North seas to the north, and the Alps to the south. Germany is a culturally and historically rich country. It is home to a wide range of customs as well as beautiful sceneries – forested hills, snowy mountains, river valleys, and more. You name it, the country has it. Every area of this Central European country is a must-see: the laid back city of Munich, the Romanesque architecture of Cologne, the impressive Berlin, the futuristic skyline of Frankfurt, the grand Dresden, the list goes on and on.

- OFFICIAL NAME: Federal Republic of Germany
- FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Federal parliamentary republic
- CAPITAL: Berlin
- POPULATION: 80,457,737
- OFFICIAL LANGUAGES: German
- MONEY: Euro
- AREA: 357,022 square kilometers
- Part of the European Union
- ELECTRIC OUTLET: type F, **230 Volt, 50 Hz** power sockets
- PHONE PREFIX: +49
- MAIN PHONE OPERATORS: Deutsche Telekom (T-Mobile), Vodafone., O2 (Telefónica)

Germany, officially the Federal Republic of Germany, is a country in Central Europe. It is the second-most populous country in Europe after Russia, and the most populous member state of the European Union. Germany is situated between the Baltic and North seas to the north, and the Alps to the south. it covers an area of 357,022 square kilometers (137,847 sq mi), with a population of over 84 million within its 16 constituent states. Germany borders Denmark to the north, Poland and the Czech Republic to the east, Austria and Switzerland to the south, and France, Luxembourg,

Belgium, and the Netherlands to the west. The nation's capital and most populous city is Berlin and its main financial centre is Frankfurt; the largest urban area is the Ruhr. Germany is a member of the United Nations, the European Union, NATO, the Council of Europe, the G7, the G20 and the OECD. It has the third-greatest number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

The country's economy

Germany is a great power with a strong economy: The country's [GDP](#) is over 3.3 trillion Euros, making Germany the largest economy in the European Union. It's the world's fourth-largest economy by nominal GDP and the fifth-largest by PPP (Purchasing Power Parity). As a global power in industrial, scientific and technological sectors, it is both the world's third-largest exporter and importer. As a highly developed country, which ranks ninth on the Human Development Index, it offers social security, a universal health care system and a tuition-free university education.

Culture

Considered a country of thinkers, poets, and, nowadays, business people, **German culture and people are, to a large extent, all about reason and logic.**

Germany shares a lot of culture and tradition with neighboring countries, especially the Germanic-speaking Austria and Switzerland.

An important thing to know about German culture is that **residents are expected to respect order and structure.** It's important to be on time, not just for work but for social events too, and to follow rules that are in place for the greater good of everybody who lives there.

German culture has been shaped over thousands of years. It was **originally a pagan country**, and then an **important seat of the Holy Roman Empire**. It was also the **birthplace of the Protestant reformation**. Today, Christians, Catholics, and Muslims coexist happily in Germany.

What is German Culture known for?

Some of the key characteristics of German culture that the nation is famously known for include the aforementioned timeliness and order that is apparent in most parts of German society. From an onlooker's viewpoint, good beer (and *Oktoberfest*), delicious sausage, hiking, traditional ['Oom-Pah' folk music](#), and holiday-making make-up a key part of the country's identity. At closer inspection, there is a larger array of food, drink, history, and leisure activities that are also important aspects of their culture. And on a more serious note, in the modern era, Germany has grown to become a **large and stable economy** that contributes to global development and peace.

German culture symbols

As a historically Christian country, **many cultural symbols have emerged from religion.**

This includes obvious symbols such as the crucifix and indirect symbols such as the shape of a pretzel (said to represent the Holy Trinity). With a large Muslim population, the Moon and Star of Islam is now also considered an important culture symbol in Germany.

Other symbols of German culture are famous names from the arts, politics, and philosophy such as **Goethe, Beethoven, Klee, Kant** and **Marx** (and David Hasselhoff probably belongs on this list, too – quite seriously). Modern culture symbols include both the German flag and the flag of the European Union.

Values in Germany

Generally, Germans tend to balance traditional Christian values with progressive, liberal, and inclusive attitudes.

Germany can be considered a modern and advanced society in lots of ways. The nation has some of the most progressive policies regarding **gender equality, LGBT rights, and immigration.**

In recent years policies to allow more immigrants to enter the country have come about as more German people have begun to value the benefits of a diverse multicultural society.

75% of Germany's population are urban dwellers, and it is in these urban areas where you will find the most liberal attitudes towards homosexuality, gender equality, and refugees.

German people traditionally have **strong family values,** and even today, it is not uncommon to find several generations of a family all living in or around the same town or city - even in the larger or more transient cities like Berlin - who meet up often and celebrate or go on vacation together. Generally, they are also quite neighborly, and most will invest in their neighbors by getting to know them and creating a sense of community - again, not just in the smaller towns.

For decades, Germany has shown its **commitment to renewable energy and protecting the environment.** It has long been at the forefront of pioneering new technology to help in the war against fossil fuels, CO2 emissions, and pollution, and its dedicated garbage recycling system is one of the most thorough in the world. This should certainly be lauded as one of the country's most impressive values.

When it comes to school and work, **it seems to be ingrained in most German people that they should be conscientious and hard-working,** which is probably why the country can boast impressive economic development and one of the best education systems in the world.

What are some of Germany's traditions?

As a Christian country there are many protestant and catholic traditions which are observed and celebrated throughout the year.

Contemporary German traditions include '**Kaffee und Kuchen**', the equivalent of an English Afternoon tea whereby families and friends stop working to come together in

the afternoon for coffee and cake. The annual Munich Beer Festival, known the world over as **Oktoberfest**, is also a key tradition.

The Christmas tree tradition came from Germany. The first Christmas tree or Tannenbaum was created in Germany. By the 19th century, the tradition spread all over the country and other neighboring places with the help of several German royals. On the other hand, the German emigrants are the ones who brought the custom to America.

Traditional clothes

Traditional clothing in Germany includes the world-famous **Lederhosen**, an outfit once worn by rural men, traditionally those undertaking farm work or manual labor. A knee-length set of breeches complete with braces, worn over a short sleeve shirt, **Lederhosen** are traditionally associated with Bavarian and Tyrolean culture.

For women, traditional German clothes include the **Dirndl**, a dress made from a bodice, pinafore and full skirt. The shirt underneath is usually low cut and made with short puffy sleeves. Today these clothes are no longer seen on farm workers but on the staff and partygoers at beer festivals.



Oktoberfest, Munich.

Lifestyle

German Lifestyle

If you want to explore Europe and still work remotely, consider Berlin. It's one of the most popular capital cities in the continent. It's vibrant, relatively cheap, connected to the rest of Europe with a good transportation system, and much more. It's a place where you can work and have fun at the same time!

According to the latest statistics, 55 percent of Berlin's population is younger than 45 years of age. With 3.77 million residents, it's the largest city in Germany. People from over 190 nations prefer to live in Berlin and this number is rising. As a city offering an easy and fun-filled life for digital nomads, the city is definitely going to keep its popularity.

Most German's neither live to work nor work to live. But a lot of Germans find that the two can be **enjoyed harmoniously** (the rest of the world should probably take note). **The average working week in Germany is around 35-40 hours**, one of the lowest in Europe. Productivity, however, is high, and whilst at work, most Germans take pride in doing a good job. And when not at work, they partake in a range of leisure activities and pastimes.

"Berlin is a very down-to-earth, open-minded city. No matter what your thing is, you'll find your place here. Artists, business owners, nerds, punks, clubbers, goths, greenies – you will find your peer group. Just be you." [Denise Mai](#) , blog "digital nomad soul".

LGBTQ+ Rights

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights in Germany rank among the highest in the world and have evolved significantly over the course of the last decades. During the 1920s and the early 1930s, lesbian and gay people in Berlin were generally tolerated by society and many bars and clubs specifically pertaining to gay men were opened.

Discrimination against members of the LGBTQ+ community is prohibited in Germany. Same-sex marriage has been legal in October 1st, 2017 in Germany. And the German government is committed to promote equal rights to people of the LGBTQ+ community.

Discrimination protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity vary across Germany, but discrimination in employment and the provision of goods and services is banned nationwide. Transgender people have been allowed to change their legal gender since 1980. The law initially required them to undergo surgical alteration of their genitals in order to have key identity documents changed. This has since been declared unconstitutional. In May 2020, Germany became the fifth nation in the world to enact a nationwide ban on conversion therapy for minors.

In 2013, the Supreme Constitutional Court ruled that if one partner in a same-sex relationship has adopted a child, the other partner has the right to become the adoptive mother or father of that child as well; this is known as "successive adoption". The same-sex marriage law, passed in June 2017, gave same-sex couples full adoption rights. On 10 October 2017, a court in Berlin's Kreuzberg district approved the first application for joint adoption of a child by a same-sex couple.

Nature

More than $\frac{1}{3}$ of Germany is covered in forests and woodlands. Over 90 billion trees cover 33% of Germany. The most trees planted are Spruce trees followed by Pine, Beech, and Oak.

Germany is a leader in climate and energy policies. Germany's central and southern regions have forested hills and mountains cut through by the Danube, Main, and Rhine river valleys.

The German government works hard to protect the country's wildlife. Germany is a leader in climate and energy policies: there are 97 nature reserves in Germany, the biggest of which is the Black Forest. Despite these efforts, though, many species are at risk of extinction, including certain species of whales, beavers, and minks.

Germany's major unspoiled habitats are in two main regions. The flat northern coast is home to sea life and wading birds, while the forested hills and mountains in the south are the best place to find wildcats, boar, ibex, and other large mammals.

The lakes and wetlands along Germany's coastlines are important stopover points for many migrating birds. The government has set up reserves for the birds' protection.



Black forest, Germany

Weather

Berlin lies where the influence of the Atlantic Ocean fades and the climate of the continental plain begins. The city's mean annual temperature is about 48 °F (9 °C), and mean temperatures range from 30 °F (−1 °C) in winter to 65 °F (18 °C) in summer. The average precipitation is 22 inches (568 mm). About one-fifth to one-fourth of the total falls as snow.

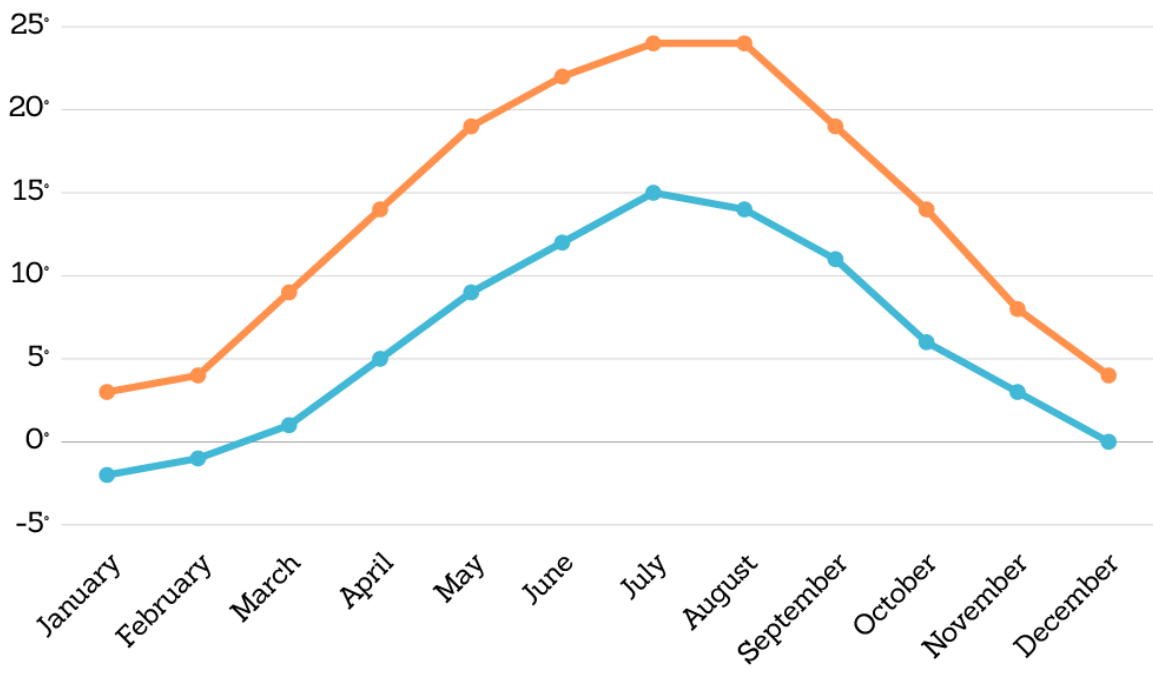
Precipitation

A wet day is one with at least 0.04 inches of liquid or liquid-equivalent precipitation. The chance of wet days in Berlin varies throughout the year.

The wetter season lasts 8.8 months, from May 15 to February 9, with a greater than 22% chance of a given day being a wet day. The month with the most wet days in Berlin is July, with an average of 8.4 days with at least 0.04 inches of precipitation.

The drier season lasts 3.2 months, from February 9 to May 15. The month with the fewest wet days in Berlin is April, with an average of 5.2 days with at least 0.04 inches of precipitation.

Among wet days, we distinguish between those that experience rain alone, snow alone, or a mixture of the two. The month with the most days of rain alone in Berlin is July, with an average of 8.4 days. Based on this categorization, the most common form of precipitation throughout the year is rain alone, with a peak probability of 28% on July 15.



Average temperature chart

Best time to visit

May to September is the best time to visit Berlin.

This is when you have the greatest chance to enjoy good weather, sunshine, and moderate temperatures. The days are long, the evenings calm and warm – ideal conditions for exploring the city. Temperatures during summer get up to 30 degrees. Yet there is much to do in Berlin no matter the weather: walk through the blooming parks and gardens in spring. Berlin bursts to life in summer with open-air events, festivals, and long nights on the town. Autumn is colourful – not just the trees, but also at the Berlin Art Week and Festival of Lights. Berlin's Christmas markets provide the perfect atmosphere in winter, while museums wait for you to discover the treasures they have in store.

Temperatures & climate in Berlin

The best time to visit Berlin comes down to how much time you plan for museums, city tours, and excursions out in nature. Berlin has a continental climate, meaning that there are considerable fluctuations in weather and temperature throughout the year.

Springtime weather in Berlin: blooming gardens, pleasant temperatures

The weather is usually very pleasant in spring. Temperatures range between 15 and 25 degrees. March and April can also be quite pleasant. Daffodils, tulips, and other early bloomers mark the beginning of spring in the city's parks and gardens. The cherry blossom, a very popular flower in Berlin, draws visitors in April. Temperatures increase significantly in March, on average up to 10 degrees. It also rains less, and the days become much longer at about 12 hours. Festivals like MaerzMusik, Fashion Week, and ITB (the world's largest travel convention) are major destinations for visitors. Now is also the perfect time for a boat tour or ride. Lean back and let the sights drift past you.

April weather is unpredictable, but there are many beautiful days this month and the average highest temperature is 16 degrees! Berlin celebrates the big Spring Festival – but the mornings are often still quite cool.

Berlin blooms in May, when the weather invites you to discover new neighbourhoods and make day trips with warm temperatures. Cafes move their tables outside. For art and culture enthusiasts in particular, Berlin is worth a visit for the Gallery Weekend from late April to early May.

Summer in Berlin: outdoor activities, street festivals & fun in the water

From the swimming lakes in and near Berlin, to the banks of the Spree or rooftops throughout the city: There is always a lot to experience, and the city never seems to sleep. The warmest months are June, July, and August.

June is when the days are the longest. With lots of sunshine and average temperatures over 21 degrees, the weather is downright perfect. The same goes for July, August, and September, when the summer weather is ideal. Enjoy the vibrant life on the streets, take bike tours and day trips, go swimming and enjoy a delicious ice cream (every flavour of which can be found in Berlin).

Light festivals, Art Week & rustling leaves – autumn in Berlin

Berlin gets colourful in autumn – not just the trees, but also at the Berlin Art Week and Festival of Lights. The October weather in Berlin is usually dry, but temperatures get considerably cooler, averaging between 9 and 15 degrees. The Berlin Marathon in late September marks the last large outdoor sporting event of the year, but many people still go outside to enjoy the last pleasant Sundays of the year while they can. Kite flying, inline skating, hiking, and cycling are popular activities. After all, you hardly notice the cooler temperatures when you're staying active. A hop on/hop off city tour is also worthwhile.

Winter in Berlin: Christmas markets & lighted streets

Berlin is always worth visiting in winter. Follow up your Christmas shopping with pleasant experiences, enjoy Berlin's cultural wealth, and attend a Christmas concert or the traditional Nutcracker ballet. The streets and shops are decorated with festive lights, and Berlin's Christmas markets invite you to browse. Temperatures of -10 degrees or lower are not uncommon in Berlin in the winter. Temperatures tend to hover around freezing, while longer periods of frost with snow and ice, and a frozen Spree, are more likely to occur in January and February. Perfect opportunity to go ice skating or visit a sauna. Berlin is cold and wet in January, with an average temperature of 1 degree. Do not forget to dress warm and pack sturdy shoes. The sun rises at 8 a.m. and sets again at 4:30 p.m. Perfect weather for visiting museums or treating yourself to a relaxed wellness day.

Visit museums and exhibitions, musicals and shows

The weather in February is not much better, but the days start to get longer and the sun peeks out from behind the clouds more frequently. Still, you should expect winter temperatures just below freezing for about half of your stay. Invite your Valentine to

a fantastic show, followed by a cosy restaurant with a fireplace. November and December are ideal for taking walks – indoors, of course. Visit premium exhibitions and cultural sights throughout the city. If you still want to be active, you can also engage in indoor sports: fly in a wind tunnel, surf on artificial waves, or swim a few laps in Berlin’s historic indoor swimming baths. Starting in late November, the first Christmas markets open up and invite you to get in the festive spirit.



Berlin during the festival of lights

History

Berlin is older than Germany

Berlin is 800-years-old while the [German](#) Empire was only founded 149 years ago (And the German Republic 48 years after that). As early as the 13th century, early merchants set up shop near today's [Museum Island](#). Folklore says that the city was founded by Albert the "Bear" — Margrave (nobleman) of Brandenburg — but there's no archeological proof of this. The city's name probably comes from the polish "brl", meaning swamp (the earliest real estate to be snapped up here). The bear in the coat of arms was probably the work of an early marketing mind who saw the onomatopoeic reference in the name.

Berlin was founded in the 13th century as a small trading town. Throughout its history, it has been a center of political power, cultural innovation, and conflict. In the 20th century, it was the site of significant events such as the rise of Nazi Germany, World War II, and the Cold War.

775 years of Berlin

Berlin is the capital and chief urban centre of Germany. The city lies at the heart of the North German Plain, atop an east-west commercial and geographic axis that helped make it the capital of the kingdom of Prussia and then, from 1871, of a unified Germany. Berlin's former glory ended in 1945, but the city survived the destruction of World War II. It was rebuilt and came to show amazing economic and cultural growth.

Germany's division after the war put Berlin entirely within the territory of the German Democratic Republic (GDR, or East Germany). The city itself echoed the national partition—East Berlin being the capital of East Germany and West Berlin a Land (state) of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG, or West Germany). West Berlin's isolation was later reinforced by the concrete barrier erected in 1961 and known as the Berlin Wall. Its status as an enclave made Berlin a continuous focus of confrontation between the Eastern and Western powers as well as a symbol of Western lifestyle for 45 years. The fall of the East German communist regime—and the accompanying opening of the wall—in late 1989 unexpectedly raised the prospect for Berlin's reinstatement as the all-German capital. That status was restored in 1990 under the terms of the unification treaty, and subsequently Berlin was designated a state, one of the 16 constituting Germany. These developments heralded the city's return to its historic position of prominence in European culture and commerce.

Language

German is the third most widely taught language in the world.

German language, German Deutsch, official language of both Germany and Austria and one of the official languages of Switzerland. German belongs to the West Germanic group of the Indo-European language family, along with English, Frisian, and Dutch (Netherlandic, Flemish).

With 74.96 million native speakers, German has the highest prevalence in Germany. As a percentage of the total population, the largest share of around 95 percent is in Liechtenstein. A total of about 95.9 million people worldwide speak German as their mother tongue.

If your native language is English, you're in luck. German is closely related to English. Both German and English are part of the West Germanic language family. So, this is actually one of the biggest reasons why German is easy to learn for English speakers.

The recorded history of Germanic languages begins with their speakers' first contact with the Romans, in the 1st century bce. At that time and for several centuries thereafter, there was only a single "Germanic" language, with little more than minor dialect differences. Only after about the 6th century Ce can one speak of a "German" (i.e., High German) language.

German is an inflected language with four cases for nouns, pronouns, and adjectives (nominative, accusative, genitive, dative), three genders (masculine, feminine, neuter), and strong and weak verbs. Altogether, German is the native language of more than 90 million speakers and thus ranks among the languages with the most native speakers worldwide. German is widely studied as a foreign language and is one of the main cultural languages of the Western world. As a written language, German is quite uniform; it differs in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland no more than written English does in the United States and the British Commonwealth. As a spoken language, however, German exists in many dialects, most of which belong to either the High German or Low German dialectal groups. The German language has 35 dialects. German is a diverse language and it has about 35 regional dialects. Some of the top dialects are: High German, Bavarian, Middle German, Low German, Frisian, and Alemannic. The main difference between High and Low German is in the sound system, especially in the consonants. High German, the language of the southern highlands of Germany, is the official written language.

High German (Hochdeutsch)

Old High German, a group of dialects for which there was no standard literary language, was spoken until about 1100 in the highlands of southern Germany. During Middle High German times (after 1100), a standard language based on the Upper German dialects (Alemannic and Bavarian) in the southernmost part of the German speech area began to arise. Middle High German was the language of an extensive literature that includes the early 13th-century epic *Nibelungenlied*. Modern standard High German is descended from the Middle High German dialects and is spoken in the central and southern highlands of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. It is used as the language of administration, higher education, literature, and the mass media in the Low German speech area as well. Standard High German is based on, but not identical with, the Middle German dialect used by Martin Luther in his 16th-century translation of the Bible. Within the modern High German speech area, Middle and Upper German dialect groups are differentiated, the latter group including Austro-Bavarian, Alemannic (Swiss German), and High Franconian.

Low German (Plattdeutsch, or Niederdeutsch)

Low German, with no single modern literary standard, is the spoken language of the lowlands of northern Germany. It developed from Old Saxon and the Middle Low German speech of the citizens of the Hanseatic League. The language supplied the Scandinavian languages with many loanwords, but, with the decline of the league, Low German declined as well. Although the numerous Low German dialects are still spoken in the homes of northern Germany and a small amount of literature is written in them, no standard Low German literary or administrative language exists.

Other major dialects

Alemannic dialects, which developed in the southwestern part of the Germanic speech area, differ considerably in sound system and grammar from standard High German. These dialects are spoken in Switzerland, western Austria, Swabia, and Liechtenstein and in the Alsace region of France. Yiddish, the language of the Ashkenazic Jews (Jews whose ancestors lived in Germany in the European Middle Ages), also developed from High German.

Best things to do

Berlin - the city of freedom- has been the stage for a lot of world history and not just the fall of the Berlin Wall. You can still discover the traces of history in countless places around the capital. You can also explore traces of history in the [modernist housing estates](#), which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Every three years, the large, supra-regional festival of building culture, the **Triennale der Moderne**, focuses on Berlin's modernist architecture.

For centuries Berlin has played an important part in European history. From the Thirty Years War and the Protestant Revolution to the Prussian rule and Nazis, this is a city that has *seen* things, has been the center of untold histories, wars, catastrophes, peace and pandemics. In other words, there's a lot for the eyes to take in, in Berlin. And the best way to get to know a city as entrenched in historical depths as this is to have a long walk around. Start from the east then head west or vice versa. Follow the S-bahn or hop on a double decker bus. Have a milchkaffee or kiba along the way. Stop in a park. But not too long. There's always more to do and see here.

Top Sightseeing Berlin: top attractions

1. **Reichstag Building:** Situated just north of the Brandenburg Gate, this building houses the German Parliament and was the seat of the Weimar Republic government until it was seized by the Nazis in 1933.
2. **Brandenburg Gate:** Located in no-man's land between East and West Germany during the Cold War, this famous monument, built during the 18th-century reign of Friedrich Wilhelm II, has long been a defining symbol of Berlin and both the city's division and unification.
3. **The Holocaust Memorial** - Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe
4. **Topography of Terror:** Since 1987 a permanent exhibition at the site where the headquarters of the Secret State Police, the SS and the Reich Security Main Office were located during the "Third Reich" has been providing information to the public about the most important institutions of National Socialist persecution and terror. The documentary exhibition conveys the European dimensions of the Nazi reign of terror.
5. **Memorial of the Berlin Wall:** The Berlin Wall Memorial is the central memorial site of German division, located in the middle of the capital. Situated at the

historic site on Bernauer Strasse, it extends along 1.4 kilometers of the former border strip.

6. **Pergamonmuseum:** The Pergamonmuseum is a three-wing complex. The museum houses three of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin's collections: the Antikensammlung, Vorderasiatisches Museum, and the Museum für Islamische Kunst. The impressive reconstructions of massive archaeological structures – the Pergamon Altar, Market Gate of Miletus, the Ishtar Gate and Processional Way from Babylon, and the Mshatta Facade – have made the Pergamonmuseum famous throughout the world, with the result that it is the most visited museum at the Staatliche Museen and in Germany as a whole.
7. **East Side Gallery:** This mile-long stretch of the Berlin Wall is one of the largest remaining portions of the former divide between East and West Germany.
8. **Friedrichstadt-Palast:** More than one hundred artists on the biggest theatre stage in the world. With half a million guests every year, the Palast is the #1 theatre in Berlin. The Palast in Berlin is the first choice for those wishing to experience something utterly unique and thoroughly fascinating - perfectly including international visitors who do not speak German. Welcome to Berlin, welcome to the Palast.
9. **Museum Island:** Home to three famous museums - the Pergamon, the Altes and the Bode.
10. **Berliner Dom**
11. **Tiergarten:** This huge lush park stretches through central Berlin and provides a relaxing contrast to the bustle of the rest of the city.
12. **Zoo Berlin:** Zoo Berlin is not only the oldest and most frequently visited zoo in the country, it is also home to the largest variety of species of any zoo in the world – including the only Giant Pandas in Germany.
13. **Gendarmenmarkt:** This picturesque town square is surrounded by several historic structures.
14. **Berliner Fernsehturm:** Enjoy a unique panorama and unforgettable view of the entire city with its many attractions over 200 metres above ground. Every day, in our Sphere restaurant, you can enjoy delicious, freshly prepared international dishes and Berlin specialities of the highest quality - in every sense of the word.
15. **Neues Museu**

16. **Tempelhofer Feld Park:** These days, it's all about getting out into nature in a safe, socially distant way that is. Tempelhofer Feld, an immense outstretch of land between Schöneberg and Tempelhof was historically a military practice ground and home to Tempelhof airport which shuttered its wings in 2008 after 85 years of service. The park is massive, with runways creating paths for actual running or skating or windboarding on land (it gets pretty windy here) or what have you. There's also a sizable urban garden filled with tomatoes and lettuce and other crops grown by the local residents. The perfect spot to wind down with a hefe weisse as the sun sets.
17. **Vabali:** Wellness and tranquility. A little Bali in Berlin. This tropical spa paradise is just a quick bus ride from the bustling chaos that is Hauptbahnhof. It's a quiet and unexpected treat for hot sweaty sauna lovers. There are 10 saunas, indoors and outdoors, hot tubs, a cold bath, a restaurant and bar, pool and chillout areas where you can relax or nap. And yes, you, go in nude.
18. **Teufelsberg:** Meaning devil's mountain in German, this is a manmade hill created after WWII by the removal of debris and rubble from the war. Obviously, there was plenty of it. It was buildt atop a Nazi military technical college which proved hard to destroy by explosion. Nearby there's an old abandoned Cold War listening station built by the NSA. Now the place is full of graffiti and other artworks. Film director David Lynch [once sought](#) to build a Transcendental Meditation School on the site, but was denied after a presentation that did not go as planned. You can pay a small fee to visit the gallery.
19. **Museuminsel/Museum Island:** A UNESCO World Heritage site housing five museums built from 1824 to 1930 by Prussian architects. The island is located on the river Spree in the middle of historic Berlin. The ensemble of museums include the Altes Museum dedicated the classical antiquities; the Pergamon Museum with the Pergamon Altar and Ishtar Gate; the Neues Museum whose themes are technology and construction; the Alte Nationalgalerie home to a 19th century art collection; and the Bode museum with sculptures and Byzantine art.
20. **The Eastside Gallery/ The Wall:** This chunk of wall is the longest surviving piece of the wall that divided East and West Berlin. Following the fall of the wall, over 100 artists from around the world painted on the wall giving rise to the Gallery. Over the years, the Gallery has fallen into disrepair and some parts were even destroyed to give way to luxury apartments and other developments. It is currently under management by the State of Berlin.

21. **Alexanderplatz/Hackescher Markt:** Alex as it is affectionately known, is both a historical and commercial powerhouse. It's one of the main transportation hubs with trains, S-bahns, trams, and metros all stopping by. There's the Fernsehturm or TV Tower, that iconic fixture on the Berlin skyline. There's also plenty of shopping, with a mall nearby and other popular retail stores. The next stop over towards west is Hackescher Markt, with its labyrinth of small bars and boutique shops and restaurants. The shopping is pricier here but the items are unique and high end.
22. **Bunkers:** Berlin's underground represents dark and turbulent times as WWII was taking its toll on the battered city. The Reich managed to construct a network of bunkers throughout the city able to hold thousands of people. Many of the bunkers remain as destroying them would mean destroying large blocks on top as well. Many have been buried, but there are a few like the one at Gesundbrunnen where you can actually have a look at history.
23. **Turkish Market:** Every Tuesday and Friday, this outdoor street market hosts a veritable shopping mall of stalls selling everything from fresh vegetables, spices and cakes to socks and knives and cloth. The items are cheap, especially the produce towards the end of the day. It's right off of Kottbusser Tor and you can reach it by U1 at Kottbusser Tor or U8 at Schönleinstraße
24. **Indoor Activities:** On cold days, when the weather isn't great, there are many museums to be visited in Berlin. But, you can always sit back in your apartment, watch a movie and socialize with fellow nomads.



Streets of Berlin, Germany

Shopping

Berlin is a proper **shopping destination**. Besides luxury shops along Kurfürstendamm, you will also want to check out the numerous flea markets around the capital. Go on a shopping tour of Berlin: we're certain you'll find something you'll treasure.

The 13 Best Shopping Destinations in Berlin

Mauerpark Flea Market: If you enjoy shopping but want to stay away from large chain stores, the Mauerpark Flea Market is the place to go. Located in Prenzlauer Berg, the market happens every Sunday afternoon and features an array of stands selling vintage clothes, charming antiques, old vinyl records, bicycles, and knickknacks.

Address: Bernauer Strasse 63-64, 10435 Berlin

Bikini Berlin: Bikini Berlin is not your ordinary shopping mall. Set within a recently refurbished 1950s building in the heart of Berlin west, this is Germany's first concept mall, and a prime destination for finding the latest trends. The mall houses flagship stores and designer boutiques selling everything from clothes to furniture. There, you'll also stumble upon as well as co-working spaces, art galleries, and a food court with views of the Berlin Zoo.

Address: Budapester Str. 38-50, 10787

Kurfürstendamm: Often dubbed the "Champs-Élysées of Berlin", Kurfürstendamm is the most famous shopping street in the city. While meandering through this prestigious commercial boulevard, you'll come across a wealth of designer fashion boutiques, like Armani, Chanel, Louis Vuitton, and Yves Saint Laurent. Kurfürstendamm is surely one of the leading commercial avenues in west Berlin and a perfect place for window shopping. But aside from chic stores, this famous street is also filled with emblematic post-war buildings, making it a mecca for architecture lovers!

Kaufhaus des Westens: Kaufhaus des Westens, aka KaDeWe, is the largest department store in continental Europe. Encompassing 60,000 square meters of sales floors, the store is praised for its seductive retail offering. There, you'll find collections by international designers, luxury beauty lines, home products, and Food and Restaurant Floor with over 35,000 products and wines.

Address: Tauentzienstraße 21-24, 10789

Mall of Berlin: The Mall of Berlin is true retail heaven displaying over 250 stores. Located within a walking distance of the famous Potsdamer Platz, this indoor shopping mall is known for its variety. There, you can find a great mix of mid-range brands, including Bershka, Mango, Levi's, Nike, and more.

Address: Leipziger Pl. 12, 10117

Dussmann das KulturKaufhaus: Culture-vultures will be more than happy when visiting Dussmann das KulturKaufhaus. Nestled in the heart of Berlin, this massive store has five floors smothered top to bottom with a plethora of books covering a variety of literary genres — novels, poetry, sci-fi, chrome & thrillers, you name it! Dussmann das KulturKaufhaus also has a selection of treasured vinyl of all music genres, from techno to jazz.

Address: Friedrichstraße 90, 10117

Rausch Schokoladenhaus: Need to curb your sugar cravings? Then head over to Rausch Schokoladenhaus. Self-proclaimed as “the world’s largest chocolate shop”, the store captivates foodies with over 250 chocolate creations. Aside from producing lip-smacking chocolates made with quality beans from Madagascar, Trinidad, Costa Rica, and Venezuela, the store is also known for having the longest praline counter on Earth! Not to mention an in-house cafe, where customers can enjoy a creamy cup of hot chocolate and freshly made desserts.

Address: Charlottenstraße 60, 10117

ALEXA Berlin Shopping Mall: Gloriously located near Alexanderplatz, ALEXA is one of the most famous shopping malls in Berlin. With a rental area of 56,200 m², this indoor shopping center has a wide selection of almost 180 stores separated into five areas: “Fashion á la Carte”, “Decoration & More”, “Sports Zone”, and “Food Court”. Among ALEXA’s collection of stores, you’ll find big retail names such as Pull&Bear, Calzedonia, Mango, and H&M, where you can find clothing items at surprisingly reasonable prices.

Address: Grunerstraße 20, 10179

VooStore Berlin: Self-described as a “creatively driven concept space”, VooStore Berlin has a finely curated selection of clothing, footwear, sneakers, books, and magazines. Most of the items are from high-end brands, like Acne Studios, Byredo, Diptyque, and Jacquemus, making it the perfect place for those seeking to shop for the latest trends in Berlin’s Kreuzberg district.

Address: Oranienstraße 24, 10999

PickNWeight – Vintage Kilo Store: If you're seeking an alternative shopping experience, PickNWeight will be your best bet. This clothing store is based on the idea of selling unique vintage items by the kilo and offering a shopping experience that sets them apart from other second-hand stores. While meandering through PickNWeight, you'll find racks constantly restocked with items and accessories from past decades, all representing the trendy Berlin style.

Address: Alte Schönhauser Str. 30

The Store X at Soho House: Store X is a hospitality lifestyle and retail haven combined. Located within the Berlin branch of Soho House, in the trendy Mitte district, the space features hip interiors carefully filled with a creative edit of fashion, furniture, music, art, and books. While browsing through this industrial-style store decorated with mid-century furniture, expect to spot items by brands like Balenciaga, The Row, Jil Sander, Christophe Lemaire, Proenza Schouler, and Issey Miyake. The store also treats customers with food from Cecconi's, a Los Angeles-based restaurant known for its Italian dishes with a twist.

Address: Torstraße 1, 10119 Berlin

Modulor: Modulor Berlin's arts and crafts supplies mecca. There, you'll stumble upon all kinds of stuff creative types dream of every type of sketching book, aquarelle pencils, calligraphy paper, fountain pens, color pencils, and more!

Address: Prinzenstraße 85, 10969 Berlin

Urban Industrial: Urban Industrial is the ultimate destination for those seeking to buy stylish and unique décor items. As the name suggests, this Berlin store is basically a vast warehouse filled with everything industrial — chairs, lamps, neon signs, vintage telephones, and other accessories to pimp your home!

Address: Lehniner Ch, 14550 Groß Kreutz (Havel)

City awards

Berlin is known for its rich history, art, and culture. It has become a global leader in various fields, including technology, sustainability, and innovation. Berlin has won numerous awards and accolades for its achievements, making it a top destination for tourists and professionals alike. Here is a bullet list of some of the awards that Berlin has won:

- European Green Capital 2021
- UNESCO City of Design
- World's Most Sustainable City
- Leading Digital City
- Top Travel Destination in Europe
- Best City for Startups
- Most Affordable City in Europe

Berlin's commitment to excellence and progress has not gone unnoticed, and it continues to inspire and set the standard for cities around the world.

Working in Berlin

[German companies](#) are concerned with the work-life balance of their employees and provide as many benefits as possible in order to keep their employees happy and, therefore, motivated, creative, and productive. According to German employment law, an employee is allowed a minimum of 20 days of paid leave per year. However, each company is free to exceed this number, which in many cases reaches up to 30 days. In addition, employees are entitled to sick days, which can be taken without a letter from the doctor (Germans tend to stay out of the office if they experience cold or flu symptoms) unless sickness begins to occur regularly or the consequent days taken are more than a week, for example. Last but not least, maternity and paternity leave are well-supported by [companies in Berlin](#), as taking time off for a new child is absolutely normal.

Good to know:

There are nine national public holidays (e.g., German Unity Day, New Year's Day, Christmas Day) per year in Germany. Plus, there are additional regional holidays which are particular to the state. Some German states enjoy up to 13 public holidays annually.

Work schedule in Berlin

Holidays, family life, and personal and leisure time are highly valued by German employers. However, when you are at work, you are expected to be motivated, productive, and focused — employers take action to keep employees happy, but in return, they require their dedication. In German companies and businesses, there is no such thing as a coffee break, where employees gather in groups for several cigarette or coffee breaks throughout the day in the kitchen or common areas. In other words, every minute counts, and your boss would not appreciate seeing you lingering in the kitchen or procrastinating by starting conversations with your colleagues about weekend plans. Having said that, co-workers will find it unusual if you try to spend time socializing with them instead of managing your work tasks.

Good to know:

Germans are hard-working employees and sometimes arrive in the office very early in the morning, especially if they have children who have to be dropped off at school by 7.30 AM. Don't assume that if you come in at the office early in the morning, you are entitled to leave earlier too — although this is a very likely arrangement between you

and your boss. In any case, it is something you have to discuss with your manager in advance and make the required arrangements with your team.

Communication with colleagues in Berlin

Berliners like structure at work and clear and pre-determined responsibilities, and therefore expectations — taking on new, unpredictable tasks or figuring out things along the way is far from their way of working. If you begin to [learn the German language](#), you will understand more of the working culture and communication, which, similarly to the language, is direct, formal, and factual. For example, business communication is not based on personal feelings, theories, and assumptions but on data, detailed presentation of information, risk assessments, and many graphs and other visual representations. Also, it is expected that decision-making can be a long process, and several meetings and exchanges will be required. So, whether you have to make a proposal or take a decision, remember to be as frank and concrete as possible. Also, if you are a manager, the people who report to you will expect to receive clear guidance from you regarding their work, goals, and deadlines and will rely on you to answer their questions.

Good to know:

In Germany, open-plan offices are not very common, which means that you will have your privacy at work, you aren't expected to make small talk, and you won't be distracted.

Office etiquette in Berlin

One important tip that we think will help you [navigate the culture in Berlin](#) in and outside the office is the distinction between honesty and impoliteness — the former should be mistaken with the latter. Berliners, and Germans, generally, will tell you what they have in mind flatly, without embellishing the truth; and they would appreciate it if you did the same.

This is actually the basis for a good relationship, both professional and social. So, try not to take comments and feedback personally; nevertheless, make sure they are delivered in a constructive and humane manner. Also, remember punctuality (arriving ten minutes earlier for a meeting is common to give you time to set up, do the introductions, and start on time) and hierarchy (introduce people starting with the most senior person in the room and going down).

Lastly, keep professional interactions formal and don't cross boundaries by shifting the conversation to personal matters, such as family or making body contact — a firm handshake and eye contact should be sufficient.

Personal life in Berlin

Berliners understand better than anyone the saying that goes “work hard, play hard” and they live up to its essence. When you are at work, you are expected to be at your 100 percent; however, after work hours, you are not expected to be checking your emails or working unpaid overtime. In this vein, time with family is highly valued, and your work should not be detrimental to your family life. Hence, even if [your expat journey is taking you to Berlin](#) merely for work purposes, remember to maintain a healthy balance and allow yourself to enjoy the city, as it has so much to offer!

What do the expats think?

Digital Nomad Personal Experience in Berlin

I came to Berlin twice to study. Once in high school and once in college. After that I moved to Amsterdam and at some point I started spending a lot of time in Berlin. Such is the beauty of travel in the European Union. From the time I first came to Berlin, the city has gone through a lot of change. I remember there being a lot less English speakers back then. And there weren't as many expats in general. There was also more of a marked difference between the east and west especially from people native to the area.

I've found that there's always a great work life balance. Transportation is plentiful and although sometimes not the most comfortable place to be, it gets you where you need to be. As far as living in general, groceries are well priced, and grocery stores are convenient to get to. If not then your local Späti, will come in handy for those days when you run out of toilet paper.

For me Berlin is a place where you come to live out your punch drunk dreams; it's a bursting core of creativity and carefree freedom that makes this place a veritable wonderland for wanderers of all sorts. It's a place you can dip your toes in, a little or a lot and feel welcome. There's a scene for everyone. Berlin just seems easier to meet people and move to than a lot of other cities. Aside from the usual headaches of filling out forms, and finding a spot to live, Berlin is immensely welcoming.

Berlin is ranked 31st in the Expat City Ranking 2022 by InterNations

Ranks 13th in the Quality of life index. It's in the Top 10 (ranks 10th) in the leisure options section.

Doesn't do very well in the ease of settling in index, ranking 38th: expats think locals might not be so friendly, entering the top 10 worst cities for local friendliness. (41th)

Berlin is in the top 10 in the working abroad index, ranking 9th, doing particularly well in the Salary and Job Security section (7th).

Berlin ranks 7th in the personal finance index.

Not doing well in the expat essential index: Berlin is in the top 10 worst cities, ranking 44th. The index considers digital life, Admin Topics, Housing and Language.



Berlin: Cheap, Great for Work & a High Quality of Life

Berlin ranks 31st out of 50 cities in the Expat City Ranking 2022 and is the only German city to make it into the top 10 of the **Personal Finance Index** (7th). Expats find life in Germany's capital affordable. Only 17% rate the general cost of living negatively, less than half the global average (35%).

It might help that 93% also view the state of the economy favorably (vs. 64% globally). In fact, Berlin features among the top 10 of the **Working Abroad Index** (9th), the second-best result for Germany after Munich (5th). Seven in ten (70%) appreciate the local job market (vs. 47% globally), and the German capital ranks tenth for Career Prospects. *"Berlin offers nice job opportunities and a good standard of living including good healthcare,"* says an Indian expat.

Working life aside, expats also enjoy a high **Quality of Life** (13th), with Berlin doing second best among the German cities after Munich (10th). Expats love the Leisure Options (10th), especially the culture and nightlife (92% happy vs. 67% globally). More than nine in ten (91%) also appreciate the political stability (vs. 64% globally). *"I love Berlin's stability, culture, nature, and international environment,"* says a Mexican

expat. In fact, 89% are happy with the urban environment, such as green spaces, noise levels, and eco-friendly architecture, compared to 67% globally. Expats also agree that the government supports policies to protect the environment (86% happy vs. 61% globally) and that green goods and services are widely available (91% vs. 64% globally). Berlin even ranks first in the world for the latter factor.

On the downside, Berlin receives a below-average ranking in the **Ease of Settling In Index** (38th), even though it is the only German city that does not land in the bottom 10 worldwide. Nonetheless, only 55% feel at home in Germany's capital (vs. 62% globally), and 31% find the local residents unfriendly (vs. 17% globally).

When it comes to the **Expat Essentials Index** (44th), the situation is even worse. Expats in Berlin struggle with Germany's lack of digitalization, as 32% find it hard to get high-speed internet access at home (vs. 11% globally), and 35% struggle to pay without cash (vs. 8% globally). What is more, close to three in five expats describe housing in Berlin as unaffordable (59% unhappy vs. 43% globally) and hard to find in the first place (58% vs. 27% globally).

Source: InterNations Expat City Ranking 2022

The local people

It is true that [many Germans tend to place punctuality as a high priority.](#)

Hence the global observation that German trains often run perfectly on time. German people tend to be thrifty, be sensible, and respect one another's privacy, and they typically respect the structure and laws of society to an above-average degree. There is no place that this sense of 'order' is more apparent than in German business culture. Traditionally, **German people tie a lot of importance to notions of family and community.**

Regarding the latter, this is partially where the well-known **'rule-following'** and orderly nature of the German people comes from: if everyone in the community follows the rules and does things the right way, the neighborhood/town/city/country will be a nice place for all residents to live, hence why many might seem like sticklers when it comes to correct recycling and late-night noise - **they take it seriously for the sake of everyone.**

Berlin People

Berliners are a multicultural and eclectic bunch whose penchant for everything goes attitude is only upended by the German sense of everything goes but it must fit in a container. Berlin has many layers.

You've got the club kids who emerge from the night looking like they've come out from under a rock that landed on them mid-80s, but with a very cold war era aura. You've got the older generation of omas and opas coupled with the energy of the old stasi era, lookouts and tattle tales; you've got the large expat community coming for the creative work and staying freebase club culture and the cheap hedonism that comes from a city re-contoured by the shape of wars. There are the activists and the burgeoning Silicon Valley-esque scene with a hacker sensibility. And then we have artists and the dilettantes drinking *milchkaffees* and eating cake on a Monday.

In order to discuss Berlin, we should address German culture at large, splitting them by direction and pasting them back together again in a meta reverse, forward analysis of German history. They are in a word. Historic. Punctual, systematic. Appointment heavy, constrained.

Cost of living

Berlin is known for being a relatively affordable city in Western Europe. The cost of living can vary depending on your lifestyle and preferences, but on average, a person can expect to spend around 800-1200 euros per month on expenses such as rent, food, transportation, and entertainment. While Berlin can be a budget-friendly city, it's important to keep in mind that certain areas and neighborhoods may be more expensive than others.

What do Berlin nomads say?

👤 Tomáš, is originally from the Czech Republic but has lived in several European countries in the past years. Since he became a father recently, he and his wife moved to Berlin together with their 1.5 years old toddler. The small family rented a 3-bedroom apartment in Bergmannkiez, a neighborhood in Berlin-Kreuzberg.

👤 Josy just moved to Berlin from Copenhagen. Josy stayed in shared apartments, but in Berlin Prenzlauer Berg, she found a private place that will be her temporary home for the next 6 months.

Both nomads share with us their monthly expenses for rent, groceries, workspace, and recommendations on neighborhoods.

How do our 2 nomads live?

What is your monthly rent?




👤 2,500 Euro for a 3-bedroom apartment in Kreuzberg.




👤 950 Euro for a 1-bedroom flat with 48 m² in Prenzlauer Berg.

How much did you pay for your last meal including a drink?

👤 20 Euro for last night's dinner at a kebab shop.

👤 33 Euro for dinner and drinks in a local eatery.

Estimated rent in different areas	Budget-friendly 	Hipster 	Family-friendly 
Areas	Neukölln, Marzahn	Kreuzberg, Mitte, Prenzlauer Berg	Friedrichshain, Charlottenburg
Est. rent / month* <small>*prices are not based on Airbnb</small>	650-800 Euro	1,250-1,870 Euro	1,550-2,300 Euro

Monthly cost of living	Budget-friendly 	Hipster 	4 people family 
Rent	725 Euro	1,560 Euro	1,725 Euro
Grocery	385 Euro	515 Euro	1,050 Euro
Transportation	86 Euro	180 Euro	230 Euro
Workspace	-	139 Euro	139 Euro
Miscellaneous	350 Euro	515 Euro	825 Euro
Total	1,546 Euro	2,909 Euro	3,969 Euro

*Please note that the prices do not reflect short-term rentals on Airbnb.

Cost of rent

A studio apartment in the center will cost around €900 per month. If this is above your budget, consider shared apartments. Utilities: €200-€300 per month

Cost of daily expenses and groceries

- Groceries: €200-€300 per month
- Coffee: €2-€3 per cup
- Drinks: €3-€5 per drink
- Restaurants: €10-€20 per meal
- Entertainment: €10-€20 per activity (movie ticket, museum entrance fee, etc.)

Cost of transportation

The standard fare for a short bus trip is €2.9, and the monthly pass is €81. If you want to rent a car, the cheapest option will be around €20. Consider renting bikes too!

Ticket Fares

Single Ticket (Einzelfahrschein)

A single ticket is valid for one person and a two-hour journey through the city. It is a one-way ticket, meaning that round trips and return journeys are not included - for such purposes a new ticket must be purchased.

- Fare zone AB: €3 (regular), €1.90 (reduced)
- Fare zone BC: €3.50 (regular), €2.40 (reduced)
- Fare zone ABC: €3.80 (regular), €2.70 (reduced)

Short Trip Ticket (Kurzstrecke)

A short trip ticket costs €2 (reduced fee €1.50). It is valid for three stops on the S-Bahn or subway, change of train being permitted, or six stops on buses and trams. A change of vehicle is not permitted.

Tariff for Children

Small children up to the age of five travel free of charge when accompanied. Children from 6 to 14 years travel with a reduced fare ticket.

Cost of co-working spaces

The cost of co-working spaces in Berlin varies depending on the location, amenities, and services provided. On average, a hot desk can range from €150 to €400 per month, while a dedicated desk can cost between €300 and €700 per month. Private offices are also available, with prices typically starting at around €500 per month. It's important to research and compare different co-working spaces to find the best fit for your needs and budget.

Cost of data and internet

The cost of data and internet in Germany varies depending on the provider and the plan chosen. On average, a monthly mobile phone plan with unlimited calls, texts, and data costs around €30-40. Home internet plans range from €20-50 per month, depending on the speed and data allowance. However, prices can be higher or lower depending on the region and the provider. It's always recommended to compare plans and providers before making a decision. The average price of 1GB of data in Germany is 4.06\$

Buying a SIM card

To buy a SIM card in Germany, you can visit any mobile phone store or supermarket. You will need to provide your passport or ID card to register the SIM card, as it is a legal requirement in Germany. Some popular mobile providers in Germany include Deutsche Telekom, Vodafone, and O2. You can choose from various data plans and options based on your needs. Prices may vary depending on the provider and plan you choose.

- Telekom's MagentaMobil Prepaid M is a great option if you're looking for excellent network coverage.
- If you plan on talking a lot to your family and friends outside of Germany, Vodafone's CallYa Allnet Flat M prepaid bundle is for you.
- If you're looking for a cheaper alternative and live in one of the [bigger German cities](#), O2's Prepaid M current prepaid promotion is for you.

Accommodation

How to find an accommodation in Berlin

It might be a bit difficult to get long-term accommodation in Berlin. The city is increasingly seeing an influx of expats and families that are relocating to Berlin. In many hotspots around the city, rents are increasing steadily. The city is growing, so it might be hard to pin down an apartment to live in.

Many landlords in Berlin require proof of a full-time paying job and a history of payment from other rental establishments before letting you into their property doesn't help the situation much. Some of them will even request that you have a good credit rating to ensure that you can pay for your continued stay.

It might be quite a while before you become eligible for long-term accommodation as a digital nomad in Berlin. To save money, you can live in a hostel or co-living space for a while.

As with any search for new accommodations, online is a good place to start. Here are a few that are popular:

- [WG-gesucht](#): popular for shared spaces, roommates and all. Also has advice on what you need to find a place.
- [Immobilien24](#): a market leader in rentals around Europe. Detailed, hi res photos and equipped with all the information you seek with lots of filters.
- [Wunderflats](#): sleek, modern furnished apartments. Ikea style but nice and convenient. Great search functions for something quick and easy.
- [Immowelt](#): find housing to buy or rent as well as loans and moving tips.

Best neighborhoods to live in Berlin

Here is an overview of some of the best neighborhoods in Berlin, along with their pros and cons:

1. Mitte

Pros: Central location, rich history, excellent public transportation, numerous cultural attractions, and diverse dining options.

Cons: High cost of living, crowded streets, and touristy.

2. Neukölln

Pros: Affordable housing, vibrant nightlife, diverse population, and excellent food scene.

Cons: High crime rates, crowded, and can be noisy.

3. Kreuzberg

Pros: Lively atmosphere, trendy bars and restaurants, diverse population, and great public transportation.

Cons: High cost of living, gentrification, and can be noisy.

4. Prenzlauer Berg

Pros: Charming streets, trendy boutiques and cafes, family-friendly, and excellent public transportation.

Cons: High cost of living, crowded, and gentrified.

5. Charlottenburg

Pros: Elegant streets, upscale shopping, beautiful parks, and excellent public transportation.

Cons: High cost of living, touristy, and lacks diversity.

Overall, Berlin has a diverse range of neighborhoods to choose from, each with its own unique character and charm. However, it's important to consider the pros and cons of each neighborhood before making a decision on where to live.

[Best Airbnbs in Berlin](#)

1. The cozy houseboat on the Spree

Looking for a quirky Airbnb in Berlin? Look no further. This traditional houseboat on Berlin's Spree gives you central living – without the need to be based inside an apartment block. This awesome houseboat offers accommodation – albeit questionable – for up to four guests. Built back in 1925, this water-based home has been modernised to roll with the times – while retaining a healthy dose of its original charm. There's also a fully equipped kitchen, infrared heaters for cooler nights, a BBQ when it's time to grill some bratwurst and a private terrace for stargazing. Enjoy.

2. The ultra-luxe penthouse near Berline Innenstadt

Berlin prides itself on being a rather edgy, rough-and-ready city, but there's the odd place that bucks the trend, like this super-swanky high-end penthouse. It's done out with opulent contemporary decor and has a vast lounge space but – and this is a big but – the real jewel in the crown is its rooftop hot tub. Wunderbar!

3. The huge loft space in Kreuzberg

The epitome of German cool, this open-plan loft apartment is in Kreuzberg, an area steeped in punk history and filled with all-night bars and clubs. It's pretty spacious too, sleeping up to six people – so it's one to consider if you and your pals want to experience Berlin's world-famous party scene.

4. The contemporary apartment near Alexanderplatz

If you're looking for a central spot near downtown Berlin, this two-bed Airbnb Plus apartment is the one for you. From the plush king-size beds to the fully equipped kitchen for all your cooking needs, this stunning apartment has it all. The bathroom offers a shower-over-bath and clean design, while the living space leads out onto a wooden terrace complete with a gas bbq and outdoor seating for unwinding after exploring the city. The best part? It's super economical for a week's stay – leaving more in the bank for living your best Berlin life.

5. The light and airy apartment in Mitte

There's one keyword to sell this Mitte apartment: parquet. Just look at that beautiful finish! Ok, so parquet isn't everyone's cup of tea, but the fact that this three-bed (that sleeps eight) is also flooded with light, brimming with character and situated within easy reach of Berlin Hauptbahnhof, Brandenburg Gate and many a museum, ought to win you over. Plus, children aged 12 and under can stay free of charge.

6. The well-connected studio in Prenzlauer Berg

This studio Airbnb is a good one for families: it's spacious and has a communal garden at the back. There are also excellent transport links nearby, which will take you straight to the hive of attractions that is Alexanderplatz. But even better, the place is affordable, so you can holiday with a little extra pocket change. Result.

7. The bright and sunny one-bed near Kastanienallee

Sandwiched between Mitte and Prenzlauer, this light-filled apartment is pleasingly close to Kastanienallee, a bustling street of lovely cafes, restaurants and shops. The apartment itself is contemporary and surprisingly spacious. Our favourite feature is the balcony, where we could imagine drinking our morning coffee while watching the world go by.

Best Hostels in Berlin

Bedding Berlin on a budget? Berlin is still a wallet-friendly paradise compared to the likes of Amsterdam or London. You'll never not find a hostel to stay at in Berlin; it's just a matter of amenities and quality. Berlin hostels, like any good edgy European city, run the gamut from designer, boutique feels to blended concepts and eco-conscious. Many have hip and ironic themes:

- [The Dude](#); almost too hip it hurts. Also on the pricier side of budget. Mini rooms start at 79 euros, but the decor is minimal boutique with flat screens galore to watch your favorite dude. There's also an American style steak restaurant and a breakfast spot lovingly called YADA YADA.
- [Almodovar](#): while you might be thinking Spanish flavors, this has more of a yogi/organic/vegan/detox vibe. The spa isn't half bad. There's a rooftop sauna. Starts at 92 euro for the standard (yoga mat included).
- [Meininger hotels](#): with locations across the city, these hotels are standard airport type hotels. Clean looking rooms, vending machines and ticket service. There's price points for backpackers, families, business travelers and even longer term packages.
- [Student Hotel](#): located in Mitte. Has extended stays, a bar, gym, decent restaurant, great decor, stylish student rooms, fancier rooms, and did I mention the Nespresso machine? The concept is sound and it's worth it just for all the facilities available.
- [Generator Hostels](#): a hostel with a hygiene promise and extremely reasonable rates (15 euro a night). Generator operates in Mitte and Prenzlauer Berg. Choose from typical hostel dorm situations or private rooms with twin or king beds.
- [Circus Hostel/Hotel/Apartments](#): with its 3 properties, Circus is located on Rosenthaler Platz in Mitte near a global array of restos and pubs. Their focus is

sustainability and hospitality. A spot at the hostel starts from 20 euro. There's a microbrewery and Hoff museum dedicated to the Knight Rider himself.

Best Hotels in Berlin

KPM Hotel & Residences 9.3 starts on Booking.com

Set within 2 km of Kurfürstendamm, KPM Hotel & Residences in Berlin has a number of amenities. Boasting a 24-hour front desk, this property also provides guests with a restaurant.

All rooms in the hotel are equipped with a flat-screen TV. The rooms are fitted with a private bathroom, and some rooms have a balcony. A kitchenette is available upon request in all units at a surcharge. A buffet breakfast is served every morning at the property. Reichstag is 3.5 km from KPM Hotel & Residences. The nearest airport is BER Airport, 26.5 km from the accommodation.

Couples particularly like the location — they rated it **8.8** for a two-person trip.

Hotel Indigo Berlin - East Side Gallery, an IHG Hotel 9.0 stars on Booking.com

This stylish hotel lies between the Mercedes-Benz Arena and the East Side Gallery, the remaining iconic section of the Berlin Wall. It offers free WiFi, business services and a rooftop bar with stunning city views.

Rooms at Hotel Indigo Berlin - East Side Gallery are individually furnished. Each room is air-conditioned and includes a flat-screen TV, a desk, kettle and a private bathroom with shower.

A breakfast buffet is available each morning. The restaurant "Spreewirtschaft" serves a range of local cuisine for lunch and dinner, and also offers offers vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options.

Many hip bars, cafes and restaurants can be found nearby here in the Friedrichshain and neighbouring Kreuzberg district. Warschauer Straße train and underground stations are just a 10-minute walk away, offering excellent public transport connections throughout Berlin.

Couples particularly like the location — they rated it 9.3 for a two-person trip.

Pure Berlin Apartments - Luxury at Pure Living in City Center 9.5 starts on Booking.com

Offering a garden, a shared lounge and free WiFi, Pure Berlin Apartments - Luxury at Pure Living in City Center is a recently renovated aparthotel 200 m from East Side Gallery and 2.8 km from Alexanderplatz Underground Station. This sustainable aparthotel is located 3.4 km from Alexanderplatz and 3.6 km from Berlin Cathedral. Featuring family rooms, this property also provides guests with a children's playground.

All units include a seating area, a flat-screen TV with streaming services, a fully equipped kitchen, a dining area, and a private bathroom fitted with a hair dryer, while some units feature a terrace or a balcony. An oven, a toaster and fridge are also featured, as well as a coffee machine and a kettle. At the aparthotel, the units come with bed linen and towels.

Guests at the aparthotel will be able to enjoy activities in and around Berlin, like cycling.

Healthcare

Germany has a well-established healthcare system, with universal coverage for its citizens. The system is funded through a combination of public and private insurance, and is known for its high quality of care. Patients have the freedom to choose their own doctors and hospitals, and healthcare is considered a fundamental right. Overall, healthcare in Germany is highly regarded both domestically and internationally.

According to the [Euro health consumer index](#), which placed it in seventh position in its 2015 survey, Germany has long had the most restriction-free and consumer-oriented healthcare system in Europe. Patients are allowed to seek almost any type of care they wish whenever they want it. In 2017, the governmental health system in Germany kept a record reserve of more than €18 billion which made it one of the healthiest healthcare systems in the world at the time.

Germany Health Insurance for Expats – The German Healthcare System

Foreigners who are living and earning an income in Germany have to obtain health insurance in one of the following ways:

- **Public health insurance.** Public health insurance is obligatory for most people in Germany, except for those that exceed the annual income threshold and have the option to choose to join either the public insurance scheme or buy private insurance.
- **Private health insurance.** Private health insurance mostly plays a supplementary or complementary role in Germany. However, those who can choose between private and public plans can make private insurers their main health insurance providers.
- **A combination of both.** Those who have the option to choose between public or private insurance can also do a combination of the two. For example, individuals who have a high income can remain insured by the public scheme and also purchase private insurance to supplement the areas that are not covered by public insurance.

Public Health Insurance in Germany for Expats

Public health insurance in Germany (*Gesetzliche Krankenversicherung-GKV*) is mostly funded by social contributions. All expats who are employed are automatically insured by the public health system. You'll notice a small portion of your salary is deducted for tax purposes which goes towards your social contributions. Your employer also pays

for half of your contributions. In turn, you are included in the public healthcare scheme and are eligible for medical services when you need them— your insurance will cover your medical expenses.

To get enrolled in the German public health insurance system you need to choose between the public health insurance companies. [Feather Insurance](#) will guide you through comparing and choosing between public insurance companies in Germany.

Self-employed people who can opt-out of the public health scheme are not automatically included in the plan since their employer does not pay contributions on their behalf. However, if they want to benefit from the public scheme, they have to apply to register with the GKV.

For both cases, once registration has been completed, you receive a health insurance card (*Krankenversichertenkarte*). You need to bring this card whenever you visit a doctor in Germany since it shows that you are entitled to public health insurance.

What Does Public Health Insurance Cover in Germany?

Public health insurance covers most of the medical services, which include doctor's visits with a GP, out-patient and in-patient costs, surgeries, maternity and basic dental needs. There are some medical services that are not covered by the GKV, in which case you have to pay for the services by yourself or opt for additional insurance.

Is Healthcare Free in Germany?

Health care costs are covered by the public insurance system, which is funded by taxes or social contributions. So, while a part of your wages every month goes towards this payment when you need to visit a doctor or hospital, you won't be charged for the services with the exception of a **€10** fee for the first doctor visit once a quarter and hospital stay fees.

Does Germany Have Universal Healthcare?

Healthcare in Germany is universal, and everyone is entitled to healthcare regardless of their employment or social status.

Private Health Insurance for Expats in Germany

Private health insurance (*Private Krankenversicherung – PKV*) in Germany covers around 10% of the population, and it's available to you if:

- You make more than **€66,600** per year as of 2023
- You are self-employed or a freelancer

- You are a civil servant.
- You are an international student.

But, you have to remember that if you opt for private insurance instead of the public insurance scheme, you have to let your employer know beforehand so you don't get registered with the GKV. You also have to keep in mind that, unlike the public health plan, the premium for private insurance is not only dependent on salary but also on your age, your medical condition, your occupation, and the level of coverage you want.

When you register with a private insurance company in Germany, you receive a private health card (*Card für Privatversicherte*). Unlike the *Krankenversichertenkarte*, you don't need to bring your private health insurance card with you to medical appointments, but it expedites the process of reimbursement and insurance claims.

Germany Health Insurance for Self-Employed/Freelancer Expats

Self-employed expats in Germany can voluntarily take out statutory health insurance or purchase private health insurance in Germany. As a self-employed individual, since you're not under a German employer, you have to make sure you pay the required social contributions to be eligible for the public health insurance scheme in Germany. The cost of health insurance, in this case, largely depends on your income. The minimum amount required is somewhere between 160€ to 190€ per month.

On the other hand, if you opt for private health insurance, the price is affected by several other factors, such as your age, the provider you choose, what kind of insurance policy you want, etc. With private health insurance, you'll have the advantage of customizing your plan according to your medical needs, and if you opt for an international plan, you get coverage in other countries as well. [Click here to see whether you qualify for private health insurance in Germany.](#)

Both of these options come with their advantages and disadvantages, and there are several factors that come into play, such as the duration of your stay in Germany.

Do EU Expats Need Health Insurance in Germany?

If you're an [EU citizen](#) who will be staying in Germany temporarily, you can be covered by your country's health insurance scheme. Of course, when you need treatment, you must present your [European Health Insurance Card](#), so make sure you retrieve that before entering the country.

However, if you're planning on working and living long-term in Germany, then you need to enrol with the statutory health insurance plan.

Childcare and education

Childcare and education in Germany is generally considered to be of high quality. The German government provides a range of services to support families, such as maternity leave, parental leave, and financial assistance. Childcare options include daycares, preschools, and afterschool programs.

Education in Germany is compulsory for children aged 6 to 15. There are three types of schools: primary schools, secondary schools, and vocational schools. The German education system is known for its emphasis on academic rigor and practical skills.

If you are an expat parent moving to Germany, it is important to research the local education system and find schools that meet your family's needs. There are international schools available in major cities, which may be a good option if your child does not speak German.

Overall, childcare and education in Germany offer a range of options and resources for families. With some research and preparation, expat parents can find the right fit for their children's needs.

The public transport system

The largest train station in Europe is in Berlin: Berlin Hauptbahnhof, the five-storey railway station, was a 10-year construction project.

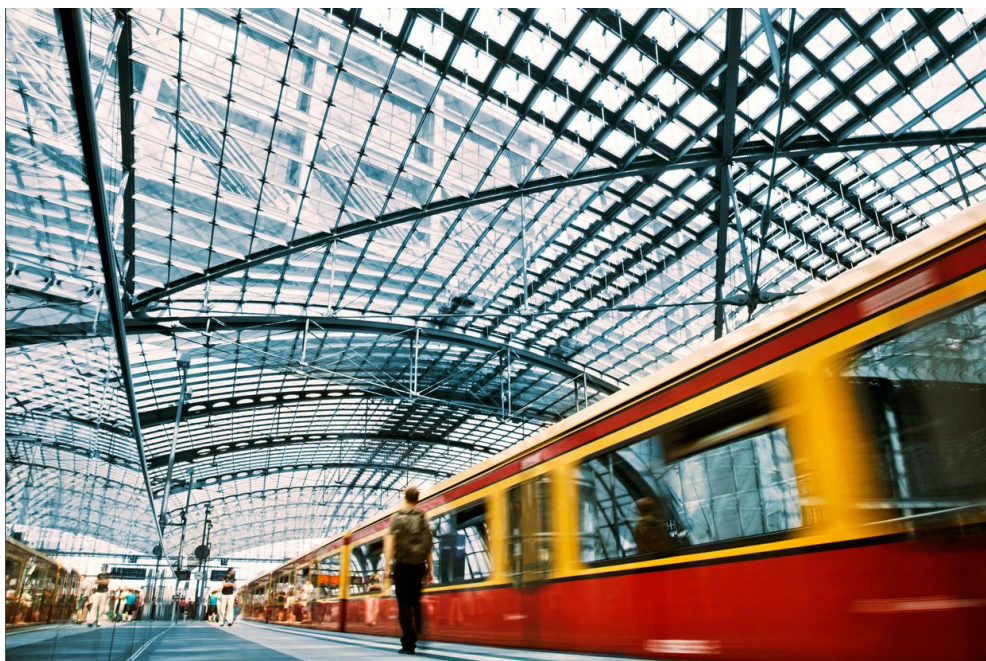
Berlin has an extensive and well-developed network of public transport that includes underground and light-rail trains as well as buses and trams. Whether you're looking to explore the city center or the outer districts, you can get there easily, comfortably and safely by using public transportation.

In theory, you can go anywhere on foot in Berlin. But if you're in a hurry you can make use of transportation options. Uber is available in Berlin. You can pick your location on the app and wait for your ride.

If you have an international driver's license, you can even rent a car or scooter. If you don't have one, check out the electric bikes and scooters that do not require having a license to drive.

There are ride-sharing services present in Berlin if you don't want to use the regular commute channels. It might take a while to get a ride, but it's fun and costs less.

In Berlin, public transport can take you anywhere. Trains, trams, buses, the S-Bahn, and U-Bahn are readily available.



Berlin Metro

Connection with the airport

There are several ways to reach the airport in Berlin. You can take a taxi, which costs around 30-40 euros depending on the distance and time of day. Alternatively, you can take public transportation such as the S-Bahn, U-Bahn, or bus, which costs about 3 euros for a single ticket. There are also shuttle services available that vary in cost depending on the provider.

The travel time to reach Berlin airport from the city center varies based on the mode of transportation used. Here are a few estimates:

1. By taxi or car, the travel time is typically around 30 to 40 minutes, depending on traffic conditions.
2. By public transportation, such as the train or bus, the travel time is usually around 45 to 60 minutes, depending on the route and any transfers required.
3. For those who prefer cycling, it takes approximately 45 minutes to an hour, depending on the starting point and the route taken to the airport.

Co-working spaces

Berlin offers many options of coworking spaces.

There are about 70 coworking spaces in Berlin. So, it's no coincidence that this city is ranked as a place every digital nomad should visit. A lot of coworking spaces are popping up around the city which will make your search an easy one.

Below is a list of places where you can work with other digital nomads.

- WeWork
- Betahaus: recommended working on the ground-floor cafe, as you'll meet more people there.
- St Oberholz
- AhoyBerlin
- Space Shark
- Raumstation
- Tuesday Coworking
- The factory up: It's a Google-backed startup space and innovation community that has over 800 people working in it, including companies such as Uber, Twitter and SoundCloud.
- Co-Up coworking space: it holds tech meetups almost every day in the evening.
- Launch-co: Famous for being the first coworking space in Europe to accept Bitcoins.

For a fee, you can join these coworking communities and use their space to do some work remotely, network, and socialize at the same time.

Food in Berlin

Traditional German cuisine is known for its hearty and filling dishes. Some popular German foods include sausages such as bratwurst and currywurst, sauerkraut, potato dishes like kartoffelpuffer (potato pancakes), and schnitzel (breaded and fried meat). Other traditional dishes include spaetzle (soft egg noodles), rouladen (stuffed beef rolls), and eintopf (stews). German cuisine also includes a variety of breads, cheeses, and desserts like Black Forest cake and apple strudel. Overall, traditional German food is flavorful and comforting, perfect for a cold winter's day.



Facts about food in Germany:

- Beer is considered as food in the Bavaria region. Beer is an important food group in Germany, and so in the Bavaria region beer is considered as food.
- There are 7,000 different beers in Germany.

- There are more than 1,000 kinds of sausages in Germany. Another thing that Germany is famous for is sausages! So don't be surprised about the fact that there are over 1,000 sausage varieties in Deutschland.
- Germany has more than 3000 kinds of bread. You might not know this but another key symbol of Germany is...bread. The country has over 3000 bread varieties.
- Berlin has a museum dedicated to currywurst. The [Deutsches Currywurst Museum](#) is a museum in Berlin dedicated to the currywurst sausage.

Berlin's culinary scene is diverse and vibrant, offering a mix of traditional and modern gastronomy. Some traditional foods of Berlin include currywurst, a sausage with curry sauce, and schnitzel, a breaded and fried meat dish.

In addition to traditional cuisine, Berlin offers a wide range of international foods, including Middle Eastern, Asian, and Mediterranean. There are also many vegan and gluten-free options available throughout the city.

Best restaurants and cafes in Berlin

For budget-friendly options, some great restaurants to try are Mustafa's Gemüse Kebap, serving delicious Turkish-style kebabs, and Burgermeister, with a selection of tasty burgers.

For vegan options, head to Lucky Leek, which offers fine dining in a plant-based menu, and Vöner, serving vegan versions of traditional kebab.

For gluten-free options, try Chipps or The Bowl, both offering healthy and gluten-free options.

Here are some cafes and workspaces to get you through the work day:

Roamers

Grab a spot of brunchy lunch, or lunchy breakfast, or a healthyish snack, maybe a little bloody mary if it's that kind of day and be ready for some people watching and gawking. Great for business meetings and just lazy work days when you could use some inspiration. The service can be a tad on the slow side however.

Kaffee 9

Attached to the food hall, Markthalle 9, Kaffee 9 has it all: its own roastery, wines, cocktails, cakes, and ample seating on high tables and high stools. The place tends to get full fast, and voices carry here, loudly at times. Another great place for meeting a client or just treating yourself to a solid espresso or negroni.

Holy Coffee

This Neukölln delight right on Sonnenallee is cozy, but curated. A light and airy atmosphere coupled with great artisanal locally roasted beans, an amazing coffee machine to make superb drinks and a killer soundtrack make this place an automatic must for anyone with coffee lust. Also work.

Berlin sprawls for miles and miles— the east west divide is real. Keep this in mind when shopping around for a spot to best flex your thought muscles and dive deep into what you do best. You'll want to stay close to home to avoid a massive commute. Biking can be your friend, but in the cold and rain, it's not so fun. The ecosystem of coworking spaces follows a form, function, taste menu. You can get shabby or chic, or high tech and glossy depending on your preferences. Here some options to explore that cover the best hubs of Berlin.

Mitosis

Community is the central theme of this Neukölln coworking space. It's a place where you'll be likely to mingle with developers and playwrights along social media marketers and designers. There's a mitosis factory, event space and conference space, meeting rooms, pretty stellar kitchen area with a fierce coffee machine. You can rent a floating desk starting at 200 euro a month. It's surrounded by bars and art galleries, and trendy shops.

Enclave

Passing through the city or wanting a little respite from home, Enclave offers a hot desk for 8 euros a day and a monthly space for 100 euro a month (flex desk). Enclave is international and cozy with 3 levels of noise to suit your work style. It's on the smaller side with a max of 50 people but there's free beer and an outdoor terrace.

Spott Box

Spott Box in Wedding pulls off quaint and artsy with an exhibition room and photo studio. The thrust here is creativity. Ahoy Berlin, funny name and nautical themes aside, Ahoy is located in Mitte and is voluminous with 24/7 access; you'll have plenty of space to roam here.



Berlin Döner Kebab

Nightlife



Interior of Berghain, Berlin's leading techno club. After being forced to close in March due to coronavirus restrictions, the venue has reopened as an arts space.

Photograph by [Getty Images](#). Source: National Geographic

There are many clubs in Berlin. Most of them are located in Mitte, Friedrichshain, and Kreuzberg. The city is safe to walk at night. But still, it's wise to watch out due to the rising population and the influx of different kinds of people. One of the biggest doors, or course is [Berghain](#), or Bergie as locals and regulars lovingly call it.

Berghain is a famous techno club housed in a sprawling old power station. It is known for its strict door policy and long waiting times. The club is housed in a former power plant and has a unique industrial atmosphere. Berghain is popular among techno fans and is considered one of the best clubs in the world. It has a large dance floor, multiple rooms with different music styles, and hosts famous DJs from around the world.

It consists of Berghain proper downstairs and Panorama Bar up. There's even an ice cream shop if you know where to go. You can spend hours or days here. Your fuel? Techno (among other things). Techno drives, it throbs in the darkness. Livens your little souls. Makes ghouls out of saints and all that kind of naughty night imagery. But really,

the music is good, the acoustics great, the vibe, weird and insane, but mostly you do you and that's all that matters.

Other than the temple of techno, there's plenty more clubbing to be had in Berlin. Here are a few:

[Watergate](#) is perched along the Spree and its glass wall allows for a spectacular view while dancing the night away especially when the sun comes up. Quite a contrast from the dark feel of clubs in Berlin, but some of the biggest names in djing have played here.

[Ohm](#). Another power plant club. The battery room to be exact. Ohm is intimate compared to its neighbor Tresor and the music tends to be more experimental.

[Club der Visionäre](#). Great for summertime vibes. More of a bar than a club with its own tasty pizzeria.

[Golden Gate](#) is located underneath an S-bahn station and is creaky, kind of dirty and usually brimming with too many people but the parties are banging.

[Hoppetosse](#). A club on a boat. Sister to CDV.

[://About Blank](#) close to Ostkreuz and has multiple rooms and has a nice outdoor area great for warmer weather.

In truth, Berlin nightlife expands beyond rave and raucous. Berlin nightlife embraces a devil may care attitude. If techno's not your thing, you can bar crawl the night away. You can have a long walk along the landwehr canal or go to a live show at Wild At Heart, SO36, Columbia Theater, et. al. Go to the kino am Potsdamer platz. Or the Mercedes Benz Arena, an odd entry into the city, but it loves to happen.

For a chill night, appetizers and spritzers in Mitte. Move along to Kreuzberg for dessert. Head to Roses if you can get in before you head out. Or go to Santa Maria for excellent tequila-soaked cocktails, half off at happy hour(s). Klunkerkranch is a rooftop bar located atop a parking lot in Neukölln.

Visa requirements

EU citizens do not need a visa to enter Germany, but they must register with the local authorities if their stay exceeds 90 days. Non-EU citizens, however, may require a visa depending on their country of origin, purpose of visit, and length of stay. You should check with the German embassy or consulate in your country for specific requirements.

The digital nomad visa

Germany recently introduced a new visa category for remote workers who can work from anywhere.

The digital nomad visa in Germany is a new visa category for freelancers and self-employed individuals who want to work remotely in Germany. To be eligible, applicants must have a minimum of €5,000 in savings, health insurance coverage, and a valid passport. Additionally, applicants must provide evidence of their work, such as client contracts or a business plan. The visa is valid for up to one year and can be extended for an additional year. It allows holders to work and live in Germany while maintaining their remote work arrangements. The application process can take up to eight weeks, and applicants must apply at the German embassy or consulate in their home country.

The startup ecosystem

The German startup scene is characterized by the country's federal structure which gives more power and independence to German states, fostering development of a non-centric startup ecosystem. The diversity of the German startup scene can be seen in some of its notable startups and in its two startup hubs, Berlin and Munich. In Berlin, N26 has been established as a successful fintech startup while TIER is focusing on micromobility. In Munich, the focus is on B2B startups and hardware & IoT. Germany has a tradition of producing global scale, high quality corporations like SAP, Siemens, and Bosch. All of these companies are funding initiatives within the German national startup ecosystem as part of their open innovation activities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Germany demonstrated its deep science infrastructure, with BioNtech creating one of the world's most sought-after vaccines, now commercialized by Pfizer. Germany's strength and diversity are also reflected in the quality of seed startup ecosystems. Organizations such as ruhrHUB or the City of Magdeburg are actively involved in developing their city's startup ecosystems. In terms of funding, the public sector offers a diversified support system for startups. For instance, the EXIST grants for starting a business and easing development costs, High-Tech Gründerfonds (HTGF) for seed investment, and Gründung innovative to help startups during the first years of operations.

Notable Startups and Ecosystem Champions

➔ **N26** Unicorn 

Berlin, Germany

N26 offers mobile banking solutions to customers in Europe.

➔ **IER Mobility** Unicorn 

Berlin, Germany

TIER Mobility is an electric scooter company that aims to provide sustainable, ride-sharing solutions to its customers.

Our Ecosystem Partners



Source: Startup Blink

Sum it up: pros and cons of living in Berlin

Pros:

- Vibrant and diverse cultural scene
- Affordable cost of living compared to other major European cities
- Excellent public transportation system
- Plenty of co-working spaces and coffee shops with free Wi-Fi
- Opportunity to network with other digital nomads and entrepreneurs

Cons:

- Language barrier for non-German speakers
- Cold and dark winters
- High competition for housing in popular neighborhoods
- Limited job opportunities outside of the tech industry
- Touristy areas can be overcrowded and noisy